

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 05804 301038Z

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S E C R E T AMMAN 5804

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: ASHRAF MARWAN VISIT

REF: AMMAN 5797

1. HAD A FEW MINUTES AUGUST 30 TO TALK WITH MY EGYPTIAN COUNTERPART, AMBASSADOR FATHI QANDIL, ABOUT MARWAN VISIT TO JORDAN AUGUST 26/27. QANDIL SAID HE SAT IN FOR FULL TALKS WITH RIFAI AFTERNOON AUGUST 26, THEN LATER WITH KING AND FIFAI AT RIFAI'S HOME IN EVENING AUGUST 26 AND FOLLOWING THAT UNTIL 1:30 A.M. AUGUST 27 WITH KING ALONE AT BASMAN PALACE. QANDIL REPORTS THAT JORDANIANS SHOWED INTENSE INTEREST IN TERMS OF AGREEMENT RE FUTURE EGYPTIAN STATUS ON CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN FOR SYRIA ON GOLAN AND US AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR JORDAN.

2. QANDIL SAID THAT MARWAN HAD EXPLAINED IN DETAIL TO KING WHAT WAS BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. EGYPTIAN HAD ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT SURVEILLANCE SITES IN CONNECTION WITH AGREEMENT AND OTHER DETAILED POINTS. IN EACH CASE, QANDIL SAID JORDANIANS HAD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 05804 301038Z

APPEARED REASSURED WITH WHAT MARWAN TOLD THEM AND INDICATED

THAT THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO HEAR FROM SECRETARY PERSONALLY ON POINTS AS WELL.

3. REGARDING GOLAN AND SYRIA, QANDIL SAID THAT MARWAN TOLD KING THAT SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSING GETTING TALKS ON GOLAN STARTED NO LATER THAN MID-OCTOBER. QANDIL ADDED THAT JORDANIANS SEEMED SATISFIED WITH THIS REASSURANCE, AND THAT IN ADDITION WERE PLEASED THAT MARWAN STOPPED HERE EARLY IN HIS VISIT. QANDIL ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT KING KHALID HAD SUMMPNED ARAFAT TO SAUDI ARABIA TO BE PRESENT WITH MARWAN IN AN EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL. QANDIL SAID EGYPTIAN ASSESSMENT IS THAT SYRIA WILL NOT MAKE PUBLIC ISSUE OF INTERIM AGREEMENT AND THAT JORDANIANS WILL FOLLOW SUIT. HOWEVER, ARAFAT WILL BE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM STATEMENTS BY HABASH AND OTHER REJECTIONISTS AND THEREFORE WILL BE COMPELLED TO SPEAK UP ON THE AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO RETAIN HIS PLACE IN THE MOVEMENT.

4. ON HAWK MISSILES, JORDANIANS WERE TOLD BY MARWAN THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD DISCUSSED THIS IN SOME DETAIL WITH SECRETARY. EGYPTIANS BELIEVED NOW THAT IN CONTEXT OF AN INTERIM STEP AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL INCLUDED IN THAT STEP, JORDAN HAWK DEAL STOOD GOOD CHANCE OF PASSING CONGRESS. JORDANIANS INDICATED THEIR PLEASURE AT PRESIDENT SADAT'S SUPPORT AND FURTHER AT EGYPTIAN ASSESSMENT THAT DEAL WOULD GO THROUGH.

5. QANDIL COMMENTED THAT WHILE JORDANIANS HAD HAD QUESTIONS AND SEEMED DISTRUSTFUL AT BEGINNING, AT END OF MARWAN'S TALKS THEY HAD SEEMED MUCH MORE RELAXED, BUT STILL WERE VERY INTENT ON SEEING SECRETARY AND TALKING WITH HIM ABOUT MAJOR POINTS OF CONCERN.

6. ON KING'S VISIT TO EGYPT: THIS IS STILL ON ACCORDING TO QANDIL. TIME WILL BE FIXED WHEN KING AND SADAT HAVE FINAL READING ON HOW LONG SECRETARY WILL BE IN THE AREA. VISIT WILL TAKE FOUR DAYS AND IF KING CAN MAKE IT BEFORE BEGINNING OF RAMADAN ON SEPTEMBER 7 WHILE STILL GIVING SADAT TWO DAYS OR SO REST AFTER PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS IT WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE RAMADAN. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE, THEN KING WILL GO TO EGYPT RIGHT AFTER END OF RAMADAN. QANDIL LEFT ME WITH IMPRESSION THAT EGYPTIANS PUTTING SERIOUS STRESS ON KEEPING JORDANIANS INFORMED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 05804 301038Z

AND WITH THEM, AND COUNT THE JORDANIAN ATTITUDE AS IMPORTANT.

7. I TOLD QANDIL WE ALSO FELT THAT WAY AND THAT SECRETARY HAD MADE CLEAR HE INTENDED TO VISIT JORDAN. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT RIFAI SEEMED MORE RELAXED AUGUST 26 WHEN HE MET WITH US CONGRESSMEN FOLLOWING HIS TALKS WITH MARWAN, BUT THAT KING, WHO HAD NOT YET SEEN MARWAN, SEEMED THEN TO BE BLEAKER AND MORE UP TIGHT ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS. PICKERING

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